

3679/12

PTO/SB/21 (01-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

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NOV 05 2003  
U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Number	09/682,467
Filing Date	06 September 2001
First Named Inventor	Rowley
Art Unit	3679
Examiner Name	Nicholson, Erick
Attorney Docket Number	39288-0112

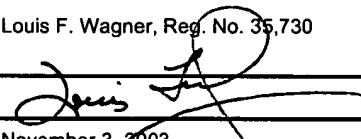
Total Number of Pages in This Submission 16

**ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)**

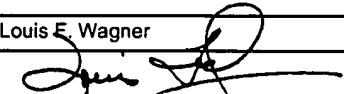
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
<b>RECEIVED</b> NOV 12 2003 <b>GROUP 3600</b>		

Remarks

Fee Determination  
Return Postcard**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT**

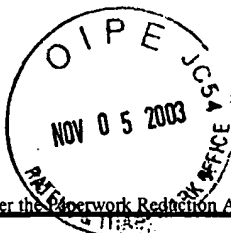
Firm or Individual	Louis F. Wagner, Reg. No. 35,730
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Date	November 3, 2003

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: November 3, 2003			
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Signature		Date	November 3, 2003

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD					Application or Docket Number 39288.112 (MER43)	
CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I					SMALL ENTITY OR OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
(Column 1)		(Column 2)				
FOR	NUMBER FILED 34	NUMBER EXTRA 14		RATE	FEE	
BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a))					\$ 355	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(c))	34	minus 20 =	* 14	x \$ 9 =	126	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(b))	11	minus 3 =	* 8	x 40 =	320	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(d))				+ 135 =		
				TOTAL	801	
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2						
CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II					SMALL ENTITY OR OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)		
AMENDMENT A	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA		
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	* 18	Minus	** 34	= 0	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	* 6	Minus	*** 5	= 0	
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(d))					
					TOTAL	
					ADDIT. FEE	
AMENDMENT B	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA		
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	* 18	Minus	** 34	= 0	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	* 6	Minus	*** 5	= 0	
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(d))					
					TOTAL	
					ADDIT. FEE	
AMENDMENT C	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA		
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	* 18	Minus	** 34	= 0	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	* 6	Minus	*** 5	= 0	
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(d))					
					TOTAL	
					ADDIT. FEE	

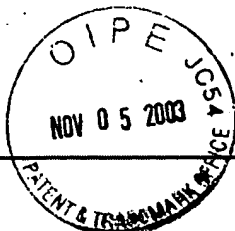
\* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.  
\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".  
\*\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".  
The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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Signature

Date

Louis F. Wagner 3 November 2003

(type or print name of person certifying)

*Louis F. Wagner* 11-3-2003

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicant:** Rowley

**Examiner:** Nicholson, Erick

**Serial #:** 09/682,467

**Art Unit:** 3679

**Filing Date:** 06 September 2001

**Date:** 03 November 2003

**Title:** Bendable Polymer-Lined Water Heater Connector

Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
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### Amendment

This amendment is in response to the *non-final* Office action dated 18 August 2003. This response is filed within the three month shortened statutory period and therefore no request accompanies this response. However, if applicant's attorney is in error, then consider this as a Petition for the requisite necessary extension of time and charge the deposit account identified in this response. Please amend the application as follows.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph Rejections begins on page 8 of this paper.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections begins on page 9 of this paper.

A Request for Reconsideration begins on page 12 of this paper.

A Fee Determination Record begins on page 13 of this paper.

A Conclusion begins on page 13 of this paper.

Fee Determination Sheet.

Drawing Sheet (marked in Red)

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***In the Drawings***

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The examiner is respectfully requested to approve the addition of reference number (18) illustrated in red to FIG. 5 clearly showing the claimed inner polymer segment in conformity with the metallic ribbed segment. This change was submitted with the previous amendment response and no mention was made during this most recent office action of the disposition of this drawing amendment.

The applicant's attorney respectfully requests that the examiner approve this drawing change.